

City of Dexter Community Garden

2015 Season



Getting the garden growing

Garden applications were available from the late winter until spring through links on the City of Dexter website. To promote the gardening program, a variety of resources were used to reach as many area residents as possible. In early March, a number of flyers were placed on the information boards throughout the village. Flyers were also placed with several local businesses.

As in previous years, City of Dexter residents had first priority over non-residents in applying for plots and returning gardeners were allowed to request the same plots as they had used in previous season.

After receiving confirmation of their plot applications, plots were assigned and gardeners were invited to participate in the Spring Work Party.



After a warm and dry spring, plowing and staking out of the garden was completed at the end of April. On Saturday the 9th of May, a nice large group of gardeners turned out for the Spring Work Party!

At this party, mulch was spread in the main pathway, weed barrier cloth was put down along the perimeter of the garden and gardeners had a great opportunity to meet their gardening neighbors and start planting.

Department of Public Works worked on replacing the fencing and provided additional tools and equipment to make the work much easier for the gardeners.



Exciting improvements

Dexter Community Garden continues to improve. A weed barrier cloth was laid down along the perimeter of the garden to keep the weeds out of the plots.

Dexter Department of Public Works purchased and installed a much more durable fencing. It will cut down on some annual set up work and provides clean, cared for look to the garden.

Last fall Boy Scouts Eagle Project built 4 more raised beds. This spring the beds were filled in with soil and gardeners grew some amazing crops!



Urban Pollinator study

This year Dexter Community Garden continued participating in an Urban Pollinator study led by a group of graduate students from the University of Michigan.

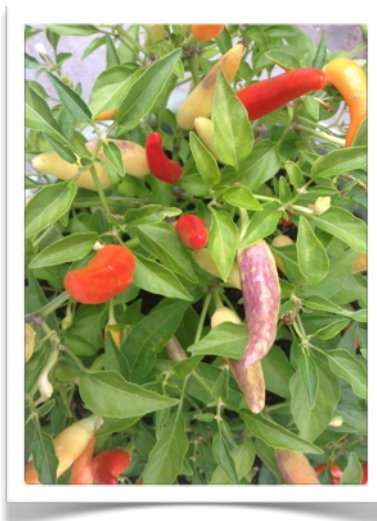
The study is centered around native pollinators and how urban gardens possibly affect their survival.

Gardeners welcomed researchers into their plots and hosted temperature recording toggles and insect traps throughout the season.

The results of the study will be shared with the garden community at a later date.



Season in pictures



End of the season

The garden clean up party was held on the 10th of October. Gardeners removed the entrance gates and brought in the north and south sections of the fence. The garden was also tidied up in preparation for the fall tilling. Majority of gardeners opted to clean up their plots ahead of time as fall weekends are busy with events.



Community Garden Survey Results

All gardeners were asked to participate in the Community Garden End-of-Season Survey. Not all gardeners responded to the survey, and not all of those responding answered all the questions.

Number of garden plots: 16 full plots (or 32 half plots) and 8 raised beds

Number of primary gardeners: 21

Number of surveys received: 13

The answers below represent combined totals and are based upon the best estimates of responding gardeners, extrapolated out to cover all the garden plots.

Total number of people who gardened with the Community Garden this season: 64 among respondents, total likely nearer 120

What did you grow on your plot?

Popcorn, zucchini, peas, sweet corn, potatoes, green beans, cabbage, kale, brussels sprouts, basil, dill, sweet peppers, hot peppers, marigolds, cosmos, yellow squash, turnips, spinach, eggplant, watermelon, honey rock melons, carrots, sunflower, pumpkins, cucumbers, beets, radishes, lettuce, onions, tomatillos, horseradish, and butternut squash!

How much would you say you have harvested from your plot this season? 850+ lbs

(Note: Many gardeners responded to this question with answers such as “2 shopping bags’ full” or “25 ears of corn”.)

How much have you shared with others? 200+ lbs

How many people did you share your produce with? 90 among respondents, total likely well over 120

When gardeners were asked why did they decide to take part in Community Garden

- over 75% were interested in growing food
- almost 70% enjoy gardening
- 38% were looking to lower stress
- over 30% wanted to spend more time with children

When asked how often did they garden on their plots throughout the season:

- over 61% did so 2-3 times a week
- over 30% gardened once a week